

1	2
Nanded	
Nandurbar	
Nasik	
Osmanabad	
Pandharpur	
Parbhani	
Pusad	
Rajapur	
Ratnagiri	
Rissod	
Sangamner	
Sangli	
Satara	
Shahad	
Sholapur	
Umerga •	
Wani	
Wardha	
Washim	
Yavatmal	
Nagpur (DD II)	
VLPT	
Chikaldhara	
Junnar	
Karjat	
Khed	
Transposer	
Aurangabad	
Staff to be sanctioned by competent authority	
Truncated Staff sanction available.	
Staff sanction for all other stations is available.	

[English]

National Policy for Print Media

1933. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Newspaper Society had rejected the move for proposed national policy for print media;

(b) whether the society has also opposed any change in the newsprint import policy of Government;

(c) whether the Newspaper Society has expressed disappointment at the 5% service tax on advertisement imposed in 1996-97 budget;

(d) if so, the details of the other objection made by the society; and

(e) the reaction of the Government?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M.

IBRAHIM) : (a) The Indian Newspaper Society has submitted to the Ministry that no Media Policy is required, especially in the print media. This was in the context of preparation of a Working Paper on the National Media Policy by a Sub-Committee of the Consultative Committee of the Ministry under the chairmanship of Shri Ram Vilas Paswan.

(b) The Indian Newspaper Society has opposed the imposition of 10% Customs Duty on newsprint (other than glazed).

(c) and (d). The Society had represented that the service tax on advertising proposed in 1996-97 budget would have an adverse effect on economic growth and on the growth of media and further that it directly affects the freedom of commercial information.

(e) The Government has imposed service tax, inter-alia, on advertising services @ 5% w.e.f. 1.11.1996.

Modernisation of Purulia Railway Station

1934. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to modernise Purulia Railway Station in South Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the present status of the proposal; and

(c) the time by which the work is likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Improvement works such as provision of station building (Phase I) has been completed and works of provision of concourse area, paving of platforms and provision of train indicator board have also been taken up and are expected to be completed by 1997-98.

Number of Post Offices in U.P.

1935. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of post offices, postal assistants, postmen and letter boxes in Uttar Pradesh particularly in Allahabad District, during 1994 and 1996;

(b) the time when assessment for staff in group 'C' & 'D' was carried out in U.P.;

(c) whether the increase in postal services has not been commensurate with the increase in population in U.P. and

(d) if so, the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) During 1994, there were 2003⁺ Post Offices, 11176 Postal Assistants, 4599 Postmen and 79337 letter boxes in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

Out of these, 548 Post Offices, 429 Postal Assistants, 325 Postman and 1908 letter boxes were in Allahabad District. During the year 1996, there were 20040 Post Offices, 10962 Postal Assistants, 4735 Postmen and 93529 letter boxes. Out of these 548 Post Offices, 412 Postal Assistants, 332 Postmen and 3237 letter boxes were in the District of Allahabad.

(b) Assessment for staff in Group 'C' and 'D' is being carried out regularly as per programme of review of establishment. It is a continuous process.

(c) and (d). Post Offices are opened on the norm based justification and availability of resources. 34 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices and 15 Departmental Sub Post Offices have been opened in the State of Uttar Pradesh so far during the current Annual Plan. Apart from these, Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Scheme has been introduced in 1995 with the objective of providing basic postal facilities in villages which do not have a Post Office but where one is justified as per norms. During 1995-96, 249 Panchayat Sanchar Seva Kendras have been sanctioned in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

Amendment in Employees Pension Scheme

1936. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) after the issuance of Notification on 28.2.1996 amending the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995, the number of more employees likely to be benefited; and

(b) the number of applications for exemption were received from Industries under the Scheme and the number out of these were disposed of within the stipulated time of six months?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Through notification dated 28.2.96, the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 has been extended on optional basis to the employees drawing wages exceeding Rs.5000/- p.m. The employees drawing wages even on piece rate basis have been specifically made coverable under the Scheme. At this stage it is not possible to indicate the number of employees likely to benefit with this amendment.

(b) Under the Employees' Pension Scheme, the EPF Organisation is required to scrutinise the applications for grant of exemption and submit the same to the appropriate Govt. alongwith their recommendations for decision. So far, no such application has been received by the Central Govt. from the EPF Organisation.

Deraiment of Trains

1937. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Shamli-Delhi Passenger

train D.M.U.-2 S.D. was derailed on October 6, 1996 between Kasimkhedi and Bawali of Meerut District and a goods train of Central Railway, Manmad-Ahmednagar derailed near Mahadidam on September 4, 1996:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any enquiries have been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the findings thereof; and

(e) the precautionary measures taken/proposed to be taken to avoid the recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d). Details of the two accidents are as under:

(1) On 5.10.96, 9 coaches of 2SD DMU Passenger train derailed between Qasimpur Kheri and Baoli stations of Delhi Division, Northern Railway. An enquiry was conducted by a Committee of Officers and the report of the enquiry committee is awaited.

(2) On 4.9.96, 34 wagons of BPTV TM goods train derailed in Manmad station yard. Enquiry conducted by a Committee of Officers has attributed this derailment to failure of the driver to keep his train under control and entering into the sand hump.

(e) following measures have been taken to improve safety:

(i) The work of track circuiting has been accelerated on the trunk routes and important main lines.

(ii) Modification of the Signalling Circuitry is being carried out to minimise chances of human error in causing accidents.

(iii) Auxiliary warning system for giving advance warning about 'Signals at Danger' to the driver of the running train has been commissioned on Bombay suburban sections.

(iv) There has been progressive increase in use of Tie Tamping and ballast cleaning machines for track maintenance.

(v) For monitoring track geometry and running characteristics of the track, sophisticated track recording cars, oscillograph cars and portable accelerometers are being progressively used.

(vi) Maintenance facilities for coaches and wagons have been modernised and upgraded at many depots.

(vii) To prevent cases of cold breakage of axles, RCH Depots have been equipped with ultrasonic testing equipment for detection of flaws in the axles.